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DE RUEHAK #0065 0150709

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 150709Z JAN 09

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8466

INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0007

RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS ANKARA 000065

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETTC KNNP KSTC MNUC PARM PREL TU IR

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION INTO IRANIAN SHIPMENT BOUND FOR VENEZUELA CONTINUES

REF: ANKARA 0003

(SBU) During a January 14 with MFA Undersecretary Ertugrul Apakan, the Ambassador raised the seizure by Turkey of an illicit shipment from Iran to Venezuela (reftel). The Ambassador praised Turkey's vigilance and said that, like the transit of a rail shipment of weapons from Iran which was disrupted by a terrorist attack two years ago, this seizure showed that Iran sought to use Turkey's territory to violate UN Security Council Resolutions. Reading from a prepared brief on the subject, Apakan said that an inter-agency investigation of the shipment is continuing, but Turkey's Atomic Energy Agency (TAEK) had already examined the shipment and had determined that no nuclear materials or dual use items were present. Other agencies continued their investigation with regard to export control regimes. Turkey will notify the U.S. as soon as this process was complete.

Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at
<http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Turkey>

Jeffrey